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## Media Release

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### **Watershed Association Introduces New Executive Director, Gives River Friendly Awards and Appoints New Trustees at Annual Meeting**

Hopewell Township—At its April annual meeting, The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association introduced Princeton native Jim Waltman as its new executive director, welcomed three new board members and presented its annual environmental “River-Friendly” awards.

The Association also inaugurated a new annual award this year, for excellence in environmental education, in memory of Richard J. Rotter, science teacher at Montgomery Township High School who passed away earlier this year. The award will recognize teachers who exemplify the enthusiasm and commitment that Richard Rotter demonstrated in sharing the wonders of nature with his students. His widow and two sons accepted a plaque commemorating his dedication to teaching and to the Watershed Association. The first annual Richard J. Rotter Award for Excellence in Environmental Education will be given in 2006.

New Executive Director Jim Waltman was formally introduced to the board and Association membership. As Director of Refuges and Wildlife for The Wilderness Society, Waltman spent ten years representing the Washington DC-based nonprofit on issues relating to the National Wildlife Refuge System, Alaska public lands, endangered species, and other wildlife matters, leading the nationwide campaign to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from proposed oil drilling. He also worked for the National Wildlife Federation and the National Audubon Society, after taking an undergraduate degree at Princeton and a graduate degree at Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies.

New trustees named to serve three-year terms were Lorraine Sciarra and Rebecca Knapp of Princeton, and John Ellis of Pennington. Elected to a second three-year term were Mary Baum of Pennington, Zvi Eiref, Betsy Hoover and David Loevner of Princeton and Mary Beth Koza of Colonia. The Board also selected the following officers for the upcoming year: Swep Davis returning as Chairman for a third year; Mary Baum and Peter Gibson as Vice Chairs; Zvi Eiref as Treasurer; and Lorraine Sciarra as Secretary.

The River-Friendly awards, for outstanding contributions to environmental protection in the 265-square-mile Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed, were given this year to the Kingston Greenways Association and the Township of Montgomery.

The Kingston Greenways Association (KGA), a citizens’ group, was recognized for its successful efforts to preserve 240 acres as a greenbelt around Kingston and a buffer for the Delaware and Raritan Canal, as well as expanding recreational opportunities and linkages to nearby parks. Accepting the award for the Kingston Greenways Association was Dr. Karen Linder.

"The success of the Kingston Greenway Association is proof positive of the impact that caring citizens can have when they work together to preserve the green places and spaces in their neighborhoods," said Jim Waltman, Executive Director of the Watershed Association.

Mayor Louise Wilson accepted the award for Montgomery Township. She shepherded her community through a comprehensive re-examination of its Master Plan, spearheading a rezoning initiative to preserve the Sourland Mountains and local farmlands and encouraging greater public participation and involvement in these decisions by addressing concerns raised by community residents.

"Both regionally and statewide, Mayor Wilson and the citizens and leadership of Montgomery Township have been vocal supporters of efforts to protect waterways, natural lands and critical habitats," noted Deputy Director Noelle MacKay. "They are partners in our Municipal Excellence program and a model community for responsible stewardship of our precious natural resources.

The Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association protects water resources in the 265-square miles of central New Jersey drained by the Stony Brook and the Millstone River, encompassing most of Mercer County and portions of Hunterdon, Somerset, Monmouth and Middlesex counties. The Watershed Association partners with municipalities and landowners to restore and maintain water quality, natural lands and waterways. It runs the state's largest water quality monitoring program along 60 miles of streams and restores stream banks. The Association's headquarters is located on an 830-acre reserve in Hopewell Township that includes a nature center, a four-acre pond used for education and research, 14 miles of hiking trails, a butterfly house (to open in June), and Honey Brook Organic Farm, an independent community supported agriculture farm. The reserve is the largest privately held and permanently deed-restricted land in central New Jersey. Visitors are welcome from dawn to dusk all year long. For more information, call 609-737-3735 or visit online at [www.thewatershed.org](http://www.thewatershed.org).

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Pennington resident John Ellis and Princeton residents Rebecca Knapp and Lorraine Sciarra were elected to three-year terms on the Board of Trustees for the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association at its April annual meeting.



Accepting a River Friendly Award for the Kingston Greenways Association (KGA) from Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association Executive Director Jim Waltman (left) and Deputy Director Noelle MacKay (right) is KGA trustee, member and Kingston resident Dr. Karen Linder. Kingston Greenways received the award for its role in catalyzing the preservation of 214 acres as a greenbelt around Kingston and a buffer for the Delaware and Raritan Canal.



Mayor Louise Wilson (right) accepts the Stony Brook-Millstone Watershed Association River Friendly Award from Deputy Director Noelle MacKay for the Township of Montgomery in recognition of its leadership efforts to protect waterways, natural lands and critical habitats.